Claims

Claim 1

A game system comprising:

a game machine for executing a game;

an electronic money control means for controlling a balance of electronic money;

an electronic money terminal comprising a reader/ writer means capable of communicating with an electronic money storage medium storing information of said electronic money and an execution recognition means operated by a player when said player starts said game on said game machine using said electronic money;

a communication means with electronic money control means capable of communicating with said electronic money control means, which is capable of ciphering said information of said electronic money read by said reader/ writer means and transmitting said ciphered information to said electronic money control means; and

a game start control means for starting execution of said game;

wherein said electronic money control means informs said balance of said electronic money through said communication means with electronic money control means to said game start control means when said electronic money control means receives said information of said electronic money from said communication means with electronic money control means, and

said game start control means starts game execution when said player operates said execution recognition means and said balance informed from said electronic money control means is not less than a unit price of said game.

Claim 2

A game system according to Claim 1 characterized in that said electronic money terminal comprises a space into which said electronic storage medium is inserted.

Claim 3

A game system according to Claim 1 characterized in that said electronic money terminal comprises:

a slit into which said electronic storage medium is inserted; and

a drawing out restricting means restricts drawing out of said electronic money storage medium during a period from said electronic money storage medium is inserted into said slit to said game is terminated and permits drawing out of said electronic money storage medium.

Claim 4

A game system according to one of Claims from 1 to 3 characterized in that said reader/ writer means starts communication with said electronic money storage

medium after said execution recognition means is operated.

Claim 5

A game system according to one of Claims 1 to 4 characterized in that said electronic money terminal comprises an electronic money storage medium detecting means for detecting said electronic money storage medium existing at a predetermined position relative to said reader/ writer means and that said reader/ writer means starts communication with said electronic money storage medium after said electronic money storage medium is detected by said electronic money storage medium detecting means.

Claim 6

A game system according to on of Claims 1 to 5 characterized in that said communication means with electronic money control means and said game start control means are provided one for a plurality of said electronic money terminals and that a switch means is further provided for connecting selectively one of said electronic money terminals to said communication means with electronic money control means and said game start control means.

Claim 7

A game system according to one of Claims from 1 to 6 characterized in that a balance inquiry confirmation means which is operated by said player when said player tries to inquire said balance of said electronic money is provided, and that said balance is displayed during a period when said player operates said balance inquiry confirmation means.

Claim 8

A game system according to one of Claims 5 to 7 characterized in that said electronic money terminal comprises a display means capable of displaying said balance of said electronic money after said electronic money storage medium is detected by said electronic money storage medium detecting means and that said display means displays said balance only when said balance is not more than a predetermined value.

Claim 9

A game system according to one of Claims 5 to 8 characterized in that a electronic money terminal control means is further provided connected with said plurality of communication means with electronic money control means and that said electronic money terminal control means integrates and handles information concerning said electronic money informed through said communication means with electronic money control means.

Claim 10

A game machine comprising:

a reader/ writer means capable of communicating with an electronic money storage medium storing information of said electronic money;

a communication means with electronic money control means capable of communicating with said electronic money control means, which is capable of transmitting said information to said electronic money control means;

an execution recognition means operated by a player when he starts said game on said game machine by said electronic money; and

a game start control means for starting execution of said game,

wherein said electronic money control means informs said balance of said electronic money through said communication means with electronic money control means to said game start control means when said electronic money control man receives said information of said electronic money from said communication means with electronic money control means, and

said game start control means starts game execution when said player operates said execution recognition means and said balance informed from said electronic money control means is not less than a unit price of said game.

Claim 11

A game program including program codes executable by an information processing apparatus connected to a reader/ writer means capable of communicating with an electronic money storage medium storing information of said electronic money, to a communication means with electronic money control means capable of communicating with said electronic money control means, which is capable of transmitting said information to said electronic money control means, and to a game start control means, comprising:

a execution recognition step operated by a player when said player starts a game on said game machine using an electronic game;

a communication step of informing a balance of said electronic money through said communication means with electronic money control means to said said game start control means when said communication means with electronic money control means capable of communicating with said electronic money control means; and

a step of starting to execute said game by said game start control means when said player operates said execution recognition means and said balance is not less than a unit price of said game.

Claim 12

A memory medium readable by said information processing apparatus in which said game program according to Claim 11 is stored.